

NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF THE MILITARY



SDDVA PARTICIPATES IN FUNERAL PLANNING WORKSHOP

SDDVA Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard was one of the keynote speakers at the George Boom Funeral Home planning workshop in Sioux Falls last week.

Pollard, along with Minnehaha County VSO Kathy Richardson and Theresa Wood (VBA) provided an overview of veteran's death and burial benefits.

Deputy Secretary Pollard briefed attendees on the new state veterans cemetery

and provided them with a view of the 95% design draft and the tenyear planning stages.

Ken Teunissen reviewed the fundraising efforts that are being done by the South Dakota Veterans Council and their community partners and outlined some of the upcoming events that their partners are sponsoring.

SDDVA will continue to keep you updated on the state cemetery project as it progresses. We are hopeful to be breaking ground for the cemetery late this Fall.



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VA ENCOURAGES VETERANS TO QUIT TOBACCO ON WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

In recognition of "World No Tobacco Day" on May 31, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will reaffirm its "Better Starts Today" campaign, calling on Veterans who use tobacco to discover reasons to quit and take advantage of innovative VA resources to help them succeed.

Led annually by the World Health Organization, VA's observance of World No Tobacco Day aims to encourage Veterans using tobacco products to quit and join countless others across the globe in starting a tobacco-free life.

"Quitting tobacco products is one of the best things Veterans can do to improve their emotional and physical health, and overall quality of life," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "The VA also understands the challenges that come with quitting. That's why we are using World No Tobacco Day as a platform to talk about the innovative tools that will guide veterans toward a tobaccofree, healthy life."



veterans don't have to do it alone.

The VA national resources include:

- Quit VET, a toll-free national quitline at 855-QUIT-VET (855-784-8838) for veterans to speak with a to-bacco cessation counselor, make a quit plan and receive ongoing counseling after their quit date. Quit-line counselors are available between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. (EST) Monday through Friday.
- SmokefreeVET, a text-message program (text VET to 47848) offering veterans three to five texts a day
 with advice and encouragement to help them while they stop using tobacco. Veterans can also text the
 keywords URGE, STRESS, SMOKED, and DIPPED anytime to receive an immediate tip for coping with an
 urge to use, a slip or stress.

For more information and resources about tobacco cessation and how veterans' families and friends can help, visit www.mentalhealth.va.gov/quit-tobacco.

SDDVA STAFF PARTICIPATES IN NUMEROUS MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAMS

SDDVA staff participated in, and delivered messages at numerous Memorial Day programs throughout the state this past weekend.

- Secretary Greg Whitlock delivered the keynote address in De Smet.
- Deputy Secretary Aaron Pollard delivered the Memorial Day message in Brandon.
- Program Manager Heather Bullerman spoke in Britton.





Field Service Officer Brett Dickerson spoke in Tabor.

SDDVA Field Service Officer Kevin Swanson played a role in the wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial Day program in Pierre.

Staff at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home hosted a program for our heroes at the Home, their families and community members.

Our special thanks to our staff, all the county and tribal veterans service officers and all the members of the veterans service organizations and their auxiliaries for making these programs a reality. Your commitment and dedication is truly appreciated.

VABHHCS PREPARES TO LAUNCH NEW VA HEALTH CARE OPTIONS UNDER MISSION ACT

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will launch its new and improved community care program June 6, 2019, implementing portions of <a href="https://example.com/the-value-new-veterans-new-vete

The MISSION Act will strengthen the nationwide VA Health Care System by empowering Veterans to have more options in their health care decisions.

Under the new and improved Veterans Community Care Program, Veterans can now work with their VA health care provider or other VA staff to see if they are eligible to receive community care. Eligibility for community care does not require a Veteran to receive that care in the community; Veterans can still choose to have VA provide their care. Veterans are eligible to choose to receive care in the community if they meet any of the following six eligibility criteria:

- 1. A Veteran needs a service not available at any VA medical facility.
- 2. A Veteran lives in a U.S. state or territory without a full-service VA medical facility. Specifically, this would apply to Veterans living in Alaska, Hawaii, New Hampshire and the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- 3. A Veteran qualifies under the "grandfather" provision related to distance eligibility for the Veterans Choice Program.
- 4. VA cannot furnish care in a manner that complies within certain designated access standards. The specific access standards are described below. (Important: Access standards are proposed and not yet final.)
 - Average drive time to a specific VA medical facility
 - * 30-minute average drive time for primary care, mental health and noninstitutional extended care services.
 - Sixty-minute average drive time for specialty care.

Note: Average drive times are calculated by VA using geo-mapping software.

- Appointment wait time at a specific VA medical facility
 - * Twenty days for primary care, mental health care and noninstitutional extended care services, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with his or her VA health care provider.
 - * Twenty-eight days for specialty care from the date of request, unless the Veteran agrees to a later date in consultation with his or her VA health care provider.

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VABHHCS MISSION ACT LAUNCH (CONTINUED)

- 5. The Veteran and the referring clinician agree it is in the best medical interest of the Veteran to receive community care based on defined factors.
- 6. VA has determined that a VA medical service line is not providing care in a manner that complies with VA's standards for quality.

To help employees prepare for this transformation and others under the MISSION Act, VA Black Hills HCS is dedicating the month of May to readiness.

"Our commitment to Veterans is our highest priority," said VA BHHCS Director, Sandra Horsman. "Our staff has always been dedicated to providing high quality health care and now the implementation of the Mission Act improves our efforts to meet the needs of our Veterans at the right time and place."

The VA MISSION Act:

Strengthens VA's ability to recruit and retain clinicians.

Statutorily authorizes "Anywhere to Anywhere" telehealth provision across state lines.

Empowers Veterans with increased access to community care.

Establishes a new, urgent-care benefit that eligible Veterans can access in the community.

"We've been working hard to prepare for a smooth transformation," said Horsman. "We know Veterans will have questions about expanding services and their eligibility. Our staff will be ready to answer questions and walk Veterans through any new processes.

VA Black Hills HCS serves approximately 22,000 Veterans throughout a five state region.

SFVAHCS WELCOME HOME

The Sioux Falls VA Health Care System will be hosting a "Welcome Home" event for veterans of all eras.

The event will be held on Thursday, June 13, from 5:00 pm—8:00 pm in the main lobby of the Sioux Falls VA Medical Center. Food and refreshments will be served.

Veterans will have the opportunity to meet and visit with Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Michael J. Fitzmaurice.

SFVAHCS staff will be on site to help veterans with questions and concerns.



5TH ANNUAL BATAAN DEATH MEMORIAL MARCH

The Sisseton Wahpeton Lake Traverse 5th Annual Bataan Death Memorial March will be held Friday, July 5, 2019.

The march will start at 7:30 am and will be lead by the Honor Guards and will start on BIA 700 South (Norbert Bellongers residence—12906 HWY 700 in Peever. The march will end at the Pow Wow Arena with a honor song, flag raising, and breakfast in honor of all Bataan death march survivors, including two from the Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe—Winfield Thompson, Sr. (US Army) and Louis Williams (US Army).

First 100 participants will receive a memorial t-shirt!





Wine Gala & Auction

Saturday, August 24, 2019 Calico Skies Vineyard & Winery

Pre-ordered tickets: \$30 Tickets at door: \$40

All proceeds to benefit



For more information or to preorder tickets, go to www.midwesthonorflight.org/gala OR contact Aaron Van Beek at (712) 463-2020.

WINE MUSIC HORS D'OEUVRES SILENT AUCTION

FREE DENTAL DAY FOR VETERANS

Aspen Dental and their team of dentists and support staff will be providing **free** dental care to veterans at participating Aspen Dental practices on Saturday, June 8, 2019.

Veterans can call 844-277-3646 to find a participating Aspen Dental office in their community. Advanced appointments are required. Dentists and teams will treat the most urgent needs of each veteran to ensure any dental pain is relieved, including anything from fillings and extractions to basic denture repairs. Routine cleanings and examinations will also be provided free of charge.

For more information about the day of service, please visit https://www.aspendental.com/about/healthy-mouth-movement.

AspenDental'_



What

Aspen Dental's Day of Service: A day of free dental care for veterans

Where

Participating Aspen Dental practices (Call 844-Aspen-HMM to find the nearest location.)

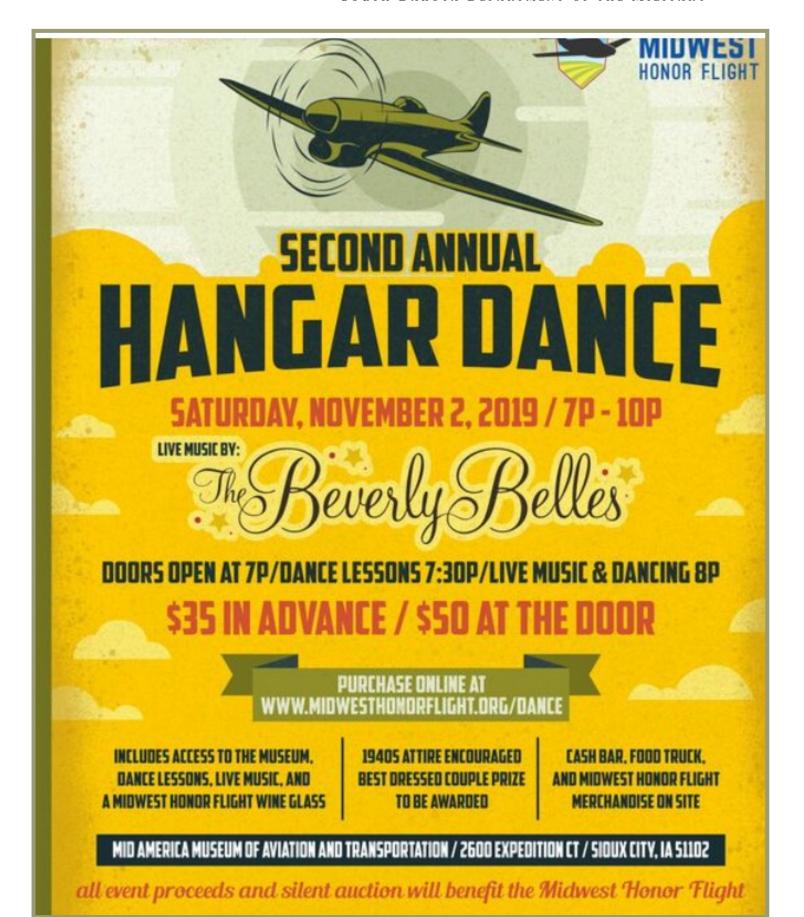
When

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. **Saturday June 8**

How

Appointments required. Call **844-ASPEN-HMM** starting May 1st to make an appointment.

#HealthyMouthMovement



Jun 6—SFVAHCS 2nd Annual VA Baby Shower—DAV (1519 W. 51st Street) - Sioux Falls—6:00 pm (CT)

Jun 6-9—American Legion State Convention—Sioux Falls Convention Center

Jun 8—Department of SD Marine Corps League State Convention—American Legion Post 8—Pierre—10:00 am (CT)

Jun 12—Sioux Falls Vet Center 40th Anniversary Open House—3:00 pm—5:00 pm (CT) - 3200 W. 49th Street

Jun 12—Rapid City Vet Center 40th Anniversary Open House—2:00 pm—6:00 pm (MT)621 6th Street—Suite 101

Jun 13-16—VFW State Convention—Dakota State University—Madison

Jun 8—Military/Veterans Canaries Appreciation Night—Sioux Falls—6:00 pm (CT)

Jun 13—SFVAHCS Welcome Home Event—Main Lobby of Sioux Falls Medical Center—5:00—8:00 pm (CT)

Jun 14—Flag Day

Jun 15—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street) - 9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)

Jun 15—Tribute to Freedom—Honoring our Veterans—Eureka Sports Complex—10:30 am (CT)

Jun 20—VABHHCS Veterans Orientation Program (Building 53—Room 102) Hot Springs—4:30 pm (MT)

Jun 29—Veterans for Veterans Annual Poker Run—Mitchell Depot Bar and Grill—11:00 am (CT)

Jul 4—State Offices Closed

Jul 17—South Dakota Veterans Council—PVA Headquarters—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)

Jul 20—PVA 5th Annual Poker Run—Thirsty Duck Bar and Grill (945 S. Marion Road) - Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)

July 20-24—National VFW Convention—Orlando, FL

Jul 20—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street) - 9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)

Aug 2—American Legion Highway 281 Centennial Run (ND/SD Border to SD/NE Border)

Aug 3-6—DAV National Convention—Orlando, FL

Aug 17—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street) - 9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)

Aug 17-18—Sioux Falls Air Show

Aug 24—Wine and Gala Auction (MidWest Honor Flight Benefit) - Calico Skies Winery

Aug 26—Sioux Falls Barrel House (MidWest Honor Flight Benefit - 10% all day to MWHF) - 4701 E 54th Street

Aug 29—Veterans Day at the Fair

Aug 26-29—SDDVA Benefit School

Sep 21—SFVAHCS Whole Health Class—Sioux Falls Vet Center (3200 W. 49th Street) - 9:00 am—11:00 am (CT)

Sep 21—Davison County Veterans Wellness and Benefit Fair—Mitchell Corn Palace—8:00 am—4:30 pm (CT)

Sep 21-22—SD American Legion Golf Tournament—Hartford Golf Course

Nov 2—2nd Annual Hangar Dance (MidWest Honor Flight Benefit) - Mid America Museum of Aviation—Sioux City, IA—7:00 pm (CT)

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South Dakota Department of the Military

South Dakota Department of the Military http://military.sd.gov

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs http://vetaffairs.sd.gov

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